



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#13

Response
Immanuel
7/11/03

In re Patent Application of

INOUE

Atty. Ref.: 900-379

Serial No. 09/826,833

Group: 2823

Filed: April 6, 2001

Examiner: Estrada, M.

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

* * * * *

July 9, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Responsive to the Official Action dated April 15, 2003, please amend the
above-identified application as follows:

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 15, 2003. Claims 1-6, 8, 9 and
12 are pending.

Claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 12 now stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as
being allegedly unpatentable over Zhao (US 6,100,184) in view of Zhou (US 6,358,842).
This Section 103(a) rejection is legally flawed for at least the following reason.

Zhou (US 6,358,842) is not prior art to the instant application. Zhou was filed
with the USPTO on August 7, 2000, well after the April 25, 2000 priority date claimed

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INOUE

Serial No. **09/826,833**

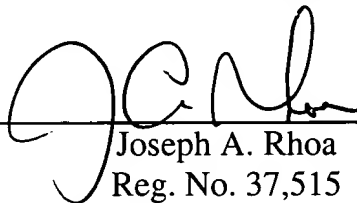
by the instant application. Thus, Zhou is not prior art. A certified English translation of the priority document is enclosed herewith.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


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